



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**7.00 pm, 15 March 2018**

**The Sun, Coldharbour Lane**

In attendance: Alex Crane (AC) (chair), Alex Attack (AA) (vice chair), Duncan Chapman (DC), Dominic Smith (DS), Isaac Parnell (IP), Nick Pittaway (NP), Alex de Jongh (ADJ), Mel Hughes (MH), Mark Scoltock (MS), Peter Wright (PW).

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Campbell (PC), Darren McCreery (DM).

2. Agree February board meeting minutes

The board minutes for February 2018 were agreed.

3. DHFC has a secure long-term home in East Dulwich

3.1 *Update on recent developments with Meadow Residential*

DHST has had no direct communication with Meadow in the period since the February board meeting.

Meadow's actions in early March 2018 were discussed at length. DHST updated members in relation to these developments in statements dated [7](#) and [12](#) March 2018.

In relation to the three trade marks registered by Meadow's Delaware affiliate (Greendales IP LLC) the board noted that Meadow had approached DHST and offered to assign the trade marks to it within a day of their cease and desist letter being made public. This is now moving forward.

In relation to the statutory demand served on the Club, DHST's statements have pointed out that the demand relates to an alleged debt that is open to dispute on multiple grounds. ADJ noted that where a debt is disputed on genuine grounds, the courts will not allow it to be pursued by way of insolvency proceedings, and may well make an order that the petitioning creditor pays the debtor's costs on the indemnity basis if the debtor is forced to apply for an injunction to restrain the presentation or advertisement of a winding up petition. DHST is in contact with the Football Committee and will emphasise the importance of making it clear that the alleged debt is disputed.



The board also discussed Meadow's purported termination of the Club's licence to play at Champion Hill and the important actions undertaken by the Save DHFC campaign. DHST has assisted with the preparation and distribution of leaflets for the rally in East Dulwich on 17 March 2018. The overwhelming support that the campaign has generated is a testament to the work put in by many people, demonstrating the Club's value to the community and the breadth and depth of support it can draw on.

### 3.2 *Update on recent developments with London Borough of Southwark*

On 5 March, the Southwark cabinet published its agenda for its meeting on 13 March, including a motion to approve the acquisition of land at the Champion Hill stadium site. Prior to this, AC and DC had attended a further meeting with the Council, although at that point the proposal to acquire the land had not been discussed.

DC updated the board in relation to the adjournment debate in the House of Commons on 16 March. The work of DC and a small number of other supporters has ensured that the debate, and the wider issues concerning the future of the Club, have gained widespread and prominent political support. DC, DM and others (who have asked to remain anonymous) produced a detailed briefing for Helen Hayes MP in advance of the debate, which a number of board members would be attending. DHST remains in regular contact with Supporters Direct, who have also provided briefing material to Helen Hayes.

### 3.3 *Update on new Southwark plan consultation*

AC had confirmed DHST's support of the draft New Southwark Plan insofar as it affects DHFC/Champion Hill.

AC had also drafted an article, published on the DHST website on 25 February, highlighting what DHST and those who have written in support of DHST's concerns, have achieved to date in ensuring that the new Southwark Plan makes suitable provision for DHFC.

## 4. DHFC is fully owned by its supporters

### 4.1 *Update on fan ownership*

In view of ongoing uncertainty over the future of the Club, this was not discussed.

### 4.2 *Other relevant news from other Supporters' Trusts*

Nothing reported.



5. DHFC is a transparent and well run football club

5.1 *Update on match day operations at the football club (including joint working)*

AC had again chased Chris Taylor for an update on whether he has signed the Southwark Women's Safety Charter on behalf of DHFC. However, with the Club not currently playing at Champion Hill, this action cannot be pursued further at present.

Match day operations at Tooting were discussed under item 7.6 (volunteering).

5.2 *Review of latest financial accounts for DHFC Limited*

AC/IP had published an article on DHST's website based on IP's review of the latest accounts filed by Dulwich Hamlet Football Club Limited.

**ACTION: AC/IP to publish an addendum to the article on DHFC Limited's accounts relating to Healey Development Solutions (Dulwich) Limited**

5.3 *Update on merchandise incl. IWD / Suffragette scarf*

DC, MH, Clare Keeble and others have now been able to retrieve the majority of DHST's merchandise stocks from the mega-container, with the co-operation of Chris Taylor.

Limited edition IWD scarves have been produced and have gone on sale. Helen Hayes was photographed wearing one on College Green in Westminster.

Artwork for the new t-shirt commemorating Nyren Clunis' 100 goals for DHFC has been drawn up. DS would obtain a sample.

[Post meeting note – Nyren Clunis scored his 100<sup>th</sup> goal for the Club on 20 March 2018, and the T-shirt is now on sale]

**ACTION: DS to obtain a test T-shirt from suppliers.**

The board agreed to carry forward the following actions, whilst noting that the introduction of a new crest would not appear, at present, to be a matter that should be a high priority for the Club.

**ACTION (from February): MH to discuss the suitability of the new crest for merchandise.**

**ACTION (from February): MH to hold discussions with the Football Committee with a view to ensuring that the new crest has appropriate trade mark protection.**



6. DHFC has a growing Supporters' Trust that communicates regularly with its members

6.1 *Membership update*

PW reported that membership currently stands at around 600 (up by about 30 over the past month).

New membership forms and membership cards have been ordered.

PW provided an update in relation to actions DHST will need to take in order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when it comes into force on 25 May 2018.

**ACTION: PW to consider GDPR compliance further and report at next board meeting.**

DHST has agreed to sponsor the matches against Thurrock and Balham. Boardroom tickets will be offered to members. PW will contact members in due course.

6.2 *DHST comms*

In addition to the statements issued on 7 and 12 March, and the two communications relating to the membership consultation, DHST has also received and responded to numerous media enquiries and requests relating to recent actions by Meadow. AC has drafted an article for the next matchday programme.

**ACTION (ongoing): AC to draft further articles for forthcoming match day programmes.**

The board agreed to consider preparation of revised comms top lines to address the current situation at the Club, including DHST's position in relation to Meadow.

**ACTION: PW/AC to prepare revised communications lines based largely on recent statements.**

AC also updated the board on recent website and social media activity.

6.3 *Promotion of 100 Club / future 100 Club plans*

The board agreed that this action should be put on hold.

**ACTION (from August): IP/AC to discuss further with 100 Club promoters.**

6.4 *Membership consultation*

AC reported that the membership consultation document (consulting members on the future use of funds held by DHST) had been drafted and finalised, with input from other board members and Supporters Direct. It had been circulated to members on 28 February. As a



result of (a) questions raised by members and (b) events in early March, a further communication had been drafted and sent to members on 13 March. The consultation closed on 14 March. As at the date of the meeting, DHST has not received any specific request from the Club for financial support (apart from the purchase of new footballs – see item 8.3 below).

The board discussed next steps, which will include considering and analysing the responses and drafting a position statement. PW will work with AC on the analysis of the responses, and the board agreed that input from Supporters Direct should also be requested.

**ACTION: PW and AC to analyse consultation responses, consult with Supporters Direct and prepare draft DHST position statement for consideration by other board members.**

7. DHFC has strong links with all fans and the surrounding community

7.1 *Update on plans for community engagement and supporting other causes*

Prior to the meeting, PC confirmed that we have a pitch booked for the Lambeth Country Show (21/22 July).

The board agreed that DHST should also book a pitch for the Dulwich Festival Fair (Goose Green, 13 May).

**ACTION: PC to confirm booking for Dulwich Festival Fair on 13 May**

DHST has been asked to take part in the Goose Green Primary School Fair (7 July). PC has booked a stand but will need to liaise with ASPIRE pre-academy to confirm whether they are able to provide coaches to run a Beat the Goalie stand.

**ACTION: PC to make contact with ASPIRE pre-academy coaches.**

**ACTION (ongoing): PC to update on any relevant upcoming community events at next meeting.**

7.2 *Kids competition - monthly fixture posters*

The board agreed to carry forward this action, in view of the current difficulty of producing monthly posters (see item 7.5 below).

**ACTION (from February): MS to re-consider alternative date for competition.**



7.3 *Intercity 125*

DHST has not heard further in relation to the request (see February 2018 minutes) that DHST sponsor/purchase the kit for the tour matches in Hamburg.

**ACTION (ongoing): MS to provide any relevant update on Intercity 125 events at the next Board meeting.**

7.4 *Saturday 14th April - fundraiser at EDT*

The EDT will provide its upstairs rooms free of charge for the fundraiser on 14 April. The board discussed various issues arising, including auction lots and raffle prizes, and the importance of ensuring a good attendance, made more difficult by the fact that the home game on 14 April will not now be played at Champion Hill. The board agreed that DHST should investigate the cost of providing one or more coaches to transport people from Tooting to the party.

**ACTIONS: MH/MS to circulate list of outstanding tasks.**

**AA/DC to investigate the possibility of coach transport from Tooting to East Dulwich (AA with Shaun Dooley, DC with a contact at TfL).**

**ALL to assist as necessary in the run up to the fundraiser.**

7.5 *Fixture poster partners scheme*

NP reported that the monthly fixture poster for March had been designed, but subsequent events (first changes to fixtures, and then the move to Tooting) had made it unfeasible to publish a poster for March.

**ACTION (ongoing): NP to provide update on poster partners scheme at next meeting.**

7.6 *Volunteering*

NP has continued to co-ordinate volunteers for matchdays to assist in the mega container and with programme sales, 50-50 sales and other activities. The move to Tooting will result in an increased need for volunteer support, including stewards and turnstile operators. The Club will lead on these aspects with NP/DHST providing support. NP reported that the Club had received a strong response to its appeal for volunteers.

**ACTION (ongoing): NP to provide update on volunteering at next meeting.**

7.7 *Trust governance and miscellaneous items*

The board agreed to carry forward this action, in view of the uncertainty created by recent events and the need to prioritise work in other areas.



**ACTION (from July): DM and ADJ to progress review of the DHST's policies and constitution and report back prior to the next board meeting.**

8. DHST finances and expenditure

8.1 *Monthly update on DHST finances*

Following the meeting IP provided an update as to DHST's financial position as at the date of the meeting. As at 15 March 2018, DHST funds stand at £77,128.08 (15 February 2018: £72,302.18) (cash at bank £37,240.94; Paypal £5,164.72; 100 Club funds £34,722.42).

Significant outgoings since the 15 February 2018 meeting include merchandise supplier invoices totalling £3,707.24 and the merchandise profit share for March 2018 of £384.

**ACTION (ongoing): IP to provide monthly update on DHST finances at next board meeting.**

8.2 *Update on DHST annual accounts to 31 December 2017*

The board agreed to carry forward this action.

**ACTION: IP to update at next meeting on progress on the preparation of DHST's accounts to 31 December 2017.**

8.3 *Request to DHST to purchase of new footballs for Club*

The Club has asked DHST to fund the purchase of 20 new balls for use by the Club, as supplies have run very low. The costs are £18 each. The board agreed to pay for these balls, and would ask if one could be retained by DHST to be signed by the current squad and auctioned at the fundraiser on 14 April or at a subsequent event.

9. AOB

9.1 *Board meeting venue*

As Meadow continues to refuse to allow DHST to hold board meetings at Champion Hill, MH had been in dialogue with Antic London regarding use of the Sun's function room (or other venues) for future board meetings. The Sun is willing to allow DHST the use of its space free of charge provided it has not been booked for other functions, for which the board is very grateful.

*Date of next board meeting*

12 April 2018 (subsequently moved to **19 April** due to fixture rearrangement). Meeting ended 10.00pm